

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

**In the Matter of A Pending Application  
By Xcel Energy For A Route Permit For  
A New 161 kV High Voltage  
Transmission Line Between Lakefield  
Junction And Fox Lake Substation In  
Southwest Minnesota.**

**CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE  
DECISION AND SCOPE OF  
PARTICIPATION**

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The above-entitled matter, a pending application for a route permit for a new 161 kV transmission line, approximately 24 miles long, between Lakefield Junction and Fox Lake substations in Southwestern Minnesota, came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for a decision on the need for a Citizen Advisory Task Force regarding the expected High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) application.

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission recently issued a Certificate of Need to Xcel Energy for a new 161 kV High Voltage Transmission Line between the existing Lakefield Junction Substation and the existing Fox Lake substation in southwest Minnesota (PUC Docket E-002/CN-01-1958); and

**WHEREAS**, an application for a routing permit for this new line is expected to be filed with the MEQB sometime in June 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes § 116C.59, and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400.1600, allow the Chair to appoint a Citizens Advisory Task Force as early in the process as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, The MEQB staff attended a public meeting in the local area, received comments, and assembled their findings and recommendations into a May 9, 2003, memorandum to the Chair; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of issues regarding location of the proposed line have been identified.

**THEREFORE**, having reviewed this information, the Chair makes the following determination with regard to the need for, and charge to a Citizen Advisory Task Force relating to this matter.

**CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE AUTHORIZATION**

The Chair finds that there are sufficient issues surrounding the possible routing of this new HVTL to warrant the input and advice of a Citizens Advisory Task Force. The membership of this group will be determined according to the requirements set out in Minn. Stat § 116C.59 and as follows.

Members will be solicited from the following groups:

- The Southwest Regional Development Commission
- The Region Nine Development Commission
- The City of Jackson
- The City of Sherburn
- Jackson County
- Martin County
- A Town Board member from either Manyaska or Jay Township in Martin County
- A Town Board member from Hunter, Des Moines, or Wisconsin Township in Jackson County
- The City of Lakefield
- Two landowners from along the proposed routes

The Chair further finds that it is prudent to set the charge to the Task Force as follows:

The charge to the Task Force shall be to identify additional routes, and particular impacts to be evaluated in the environmental review process. In particular the Task Force should consider whether routes along Town Roads such as 810<sup>th</sup> street and 830<sup>th</sup> street should be included in the review, and whether consideration of routes crossing the Des Moines River at Highway 16 should be considered. The Task Force should also consider how the line could be routed along any route corridors identified by Xcel Energy, including an examination of routing issues near the City of Jackson Airport. The Task Force should express a preference for a specific route if it has one. The Task Force should complete its review and report to the Board no later than 60 days after the date of acceptance of a completed application.

The MEQB staff is directed to compile a list of names for possible appointment to the Citizen Advisory Task Force for the Chair's consideration.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003

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Robert A. Schroeder  
Chair